



# OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

## *Navigating the Future*

### Management Plan Review



### Permitting Activities in the Sanctuary

National marine sanctuaries are recognized as resource areas of national significance. Their distinctive characteristics have established them as environmental and historic resources for scientific research and public education. Each sanctuary has unique regulations that prohibit or otherwise regulate certain activities so that sanctuary resources are protected. In Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, these prohibitions include:

- Overflights (lower than 2,000 feet) of certain areas of the sanctuary;
- Seafloor disturbance;
- Moving or injuring historical resources;
- Discharge of material and other matter.

Permits may be issued to allow activities otherwise prohibited by sanctuary regulations if the proposed action will:

- Further research related to sanctuary resources and qualities;
- Further the educational, natural, or historical value of the sanctuary;
- Assist in sanctuary management;
- Further certain salvage and recovery operations;
- Promote the welfare of an Indian tribe.

When evaluating permit requests, sanctuary staff evaluate the proposal's compatibility with sanctuary goals and objectives. They also consider the methods being proposed by the applicant; the duration of the activity; the impacts of the activity on sanctuary resources; the benefits of the activity to the sanctuary; and whether or not the activity needs to take place within the sanctuary. A common consideration for issuance of a permit is the permit applicant's professional and financial ability to

perform the proposed activity in a manner that will ensure compliance with the permit.

Anyone conducting prohibited activities without a valid National Marine Sanctuary permit may be subject to the penalties as provided under Section 307 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (as amended). A civil penalty of up to \$100,000 for each violation of any regulation may be levied.



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**For more information, permitting guidelines, or a permit application, visit the OCNMS Web site at**

<http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/protection/permitapps/welcome.html>